ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Data indicative of a transfer mode of a transmission packet may be inserted into a payload portion contained in a serial digital transfer interface (SDTI) transmission packet. Also, data indicative of a timing mode of the transmission packet may be inserted into this payload portion. As the transfer mode, there may be provided a synchronous transfer mode and an isochronous transfer mode in addition to an asynchronous transfer mode. A timing mode may prescribe a timing mode in which a transmission packet may be transferred in synchronism with a field of a transmission frame. There may be provided a normal mode using a first field, an advanced mode using a second field and a dual mode using both fields. Depending upon the manner in which the timing mode is set, a system delay between the transmission and the reception can be minimized.